

Appn. Serial No. 10/701,325  
Reply to Office Action Mailed June 10, 2005

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1 1. (Original) An apparatus for use in a well having a main bore and a lateral branch, the lateral branch comprising an electrical device, the apparatus comprising:
  - 3 an inductive coupler mechanism to electrically communicate electrical signaling in the
  - 4 main bore with the electrical device in the lateral branch.
- 1 2. (Previously Presented) Apparatus to communicate electrical signaling from a main bore of a well to equipment in a lateral branch, comprising:
  - 3 a connector mechanism adapted to connect equipment in the main bore to equipment in
  - 4 the lateral branch; and
  - 5 a first inductive coupler portion attached to the connector mechanism to communicate
  - 6 electrical signaling with the lateral branch equipment.
- 1 3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising an electrical cable connected to the first inductive coupler portion.
- 1 4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, further comprising a second inductive coupler portion connected to the electrical cable and attached to the connector mechanism, the second inductive coupler portion adapted to communicate signaling with the main bore equipment.
- 1 5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising a third inductive coupler portion that is part of the main bore equipment to inductively couple to the second inductive coupler portion.
- 1 6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising a fourth inductive coupler portion that is part of the lateral branch equipment to inductively couple to the first inductive coupler portion.

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- 1 7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the connector mechanism is further adapted  
2 to connect equipment in the main bore to equipment in a second lateral branch, the apparatus  
3 further comprising a second inductive coupler portion attached to the connector mechanism to  
4 communicate electrical signaling with the second lateral branch equipment.
- 1 8. (Original) A completion string for use in a well having a main bore and a lateral branch,  
2 comprising:  
3 equipment in the main bore and in the lateral branch;  
4 a first inductive coupler assembly proximal the equipment in the main bore;  
5 a second inductive coupler assembly proximal the equipment in the lateral branch;  
6 and  
7 an electrical cable connecting the first and second inductive coupler assemblies.
- 1 9. (Original) The completion string of claim 8, further comprising equipment in a second  
2 lateral branch, the completion string further comprising a third inductive coupler assembly  
3 proximal the equipment in the lateral branch.
- 1 10. (Original) The completion string of claim 9, further comprising a fourth inductive  
2 coupler assembly proximal the main bore equipment and a second electrical cable connecting the  
3 third and fourth inductive coupler assemblies.
- 1 11. (Original) The completion string of claim 8, wherein the equipment in the main bore  
2 includes a tubing, the completion string further comprising a connector member between the  
3 tubing and the lateral branch equipment.
- 1 12. (Original) The completion string of claim 11, wherein the lateral branch equipment  
2 comprises an electrical device.
- 1 13. (Original) The completion string of claim 12, wherein the electrical device comprises a  
2 monitoring module.

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1 14. (Original) The completion string of claim 12, wherein the electrical device comprises a  
2 control module.

1 15. (Original) The completion string of claim 11, further comprising a casing having a  
2 window open to the lateral branch, wherein the connector member extends through the casing  
3 window.

1 16. (Original) The completion string of claim 11 wherein the first inductive coupler  
2 assembly comprises one portion attached to the tubing and another portion attached to the  
3 connector member.

1 17. (Original) The completion string of claim 16, wherein the second inductive coupler  
2 assembly comprises one portion attached to the connector member and another portion attached  
3 to the lateral branch equipment.

1 18. (Original) The completion string of claim 8, further comprising a hydraulic control line  
2 adapted to extend from the main bore to the lateral branch.

1 19. (Original) The completion string of claim 18, further comprising a lateral branch  
2 connector adapted to connect the main bore equipment to lateral branch equipment, the lateral  
3 branch connector comprising a conduit to carry the cable and a conduit to carry the hydraulic  
4 control line.

1 20. (Original) A method of communicating between main bore equipment and lateral branch  
2 equipment in a well, comprising:

3 providing a first inductive coupler assembly electrically connected to the main bore  
4 equipment and in communication with the lateral branch equipment; and  
5 transmitting electrical signaling over an electrical cable connected to the first inductive  
6 coupler assembly.

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- 1 21. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising:
  - 2 providing a second inductive coupler assembly electrically connected to the lateral
  - 3 branch equipment; and
  - 4 electrically connecting the second inductive coupler assembly to the first inductive
  - 5 coupler assembly.
- 1 22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a tubing having a  
2 lower portion, the lower portion of the tubing having a second inductive coupler portion,  
3 wherein the connector mechanism has a third inductive coupler portion and a receptacle  
4 to receive the lower portion of the tubing to position the second inductive coupler portion next to  
5 the third inductive coupler portion.
- 1 23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising a module to  
2 engage an internal profile of the connector mechanism, the module having a fourth inductive  
3 coupler portion that is positioned next to the first inductive coupler portion when the module is  
4 engaged to the internal profile of the connector mechanism.
- 1 24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the module comprises one of  
2 a sensor module and a control module.
- 1 25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
  - 2 providing a connector to connect the main bore equipment to the lateral branch
  - 3 equipment, wherein the connector has a receptacle to receive the main bore equipment, the
  - 4 connector having a portion of the first inductive coupler assembly.
- 1 26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the main bore equipment  
2 includes a tubing having a lower portion to engage in the receptacle of the connector, the lower  
3 portion of the tubing having another portion of the first inductive coupler assembly.

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- 1 27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising providing a module
- 2 into the connector, the module having a portion of the second inductive coupler assembly, and
- 3 the connector having another portion of the second inductive coupler assembly.